EXHIBIT D



Transcript of Proceedings had in Lucia Miranda v. Pexco, LLC

Taken On: August 23, 2023

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Case: 1:24-cv-00153 Document #: 75-4 Filed: 03/07/25 Page 3 of 16 PageID #:3888

Page 1 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION
LUCIA MIRANDA, Individually and) for Others Similarly Situated,) Plaintiff,) vs.
REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the hearing via videoconference in the above-entitled cause before
the HONORABLE PAMELA MCLEAN MEYERSON, Judge of said
Court, commencing at 2:11 p.m. on August 23rd, 2023.

		Page 2
1	APPEARANCES (via videoconference):	
2	EDELSON, PC MS. ZOE E. SEAMAN-GRANT	
3	350 North LaSalle Street 14th Floor	
4	Chicago, Illinois 60654 Phone: 312.589.6370	
5	E-mail: zseaman-grant@edelson.com	
6	On behalf of the Plaintiff;	
7	SEYFARTH SHAW, LLP	
8	MS. DANIELLE M. KAYS 233 South Wacker Drive Suite 8000	
9	Chicago, Illinois 60606 Phone: 312.460.5000	
10	E-mail: dkays@seyfarth.com	
11	On behalf of the Defendant.	
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1	(Whereupon, proceedings were had via	1	local government contractors should be the same. But,
2	videoconference.)	2	regardless, again, it's very clear that they are a local
3	THE COURT: We are here on Miranda vs. Pexco, LLC,	3	unit government contractor and have been since 2013.
4	2021 CH 2127. We're here for argument on the motion to	4	So we move to dismiss on that basis.
5	dismiss.	5	We also move to dismiss and strike the
6	Who do we have with us?	6	THE COURT: That's a 2-619 motion, right?
7	MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Good morning or good	7	MS. KAYS: Yes, correct.
8	afternoon, I guess, Your Honor. Zoe Seaman-Grant for	8	THE COURT: Okay.
9	plaintiff.	9	MS. KAYS: Per our 2 our 5/2-615 motion, we also
10	THE COURT: Okay. You're muted.	10	move to strike for failure to state a claim for damages.
11	MS. KAYS: Good afternoon. Danielle Kays on behalf	11	You know, in a nutshell, there is no evidence at all that
12	of defendant.	12	distinguishes this from any other I'm sorry. Strike
13	THE COURT: All right. So I took a look at your	13	that.
14	briefs, and I'm ready to hear your arguments, starting	14	There's no assertions and there's no claims
15	with the movant, defendant.	15	there's no pleading at all that distinguishes this from
16	MS. KAYS: Thank you, Your Honor.	16	any other BIPA case. It's just a conclusory statement
17	We move to dismiss because, under the language	17	that the plaintiff is entitled to damages for reckless
18	of the statutes, government contractors are exempted.	18	conduct, and there's no statement in there of why or
19	The query is whether the defendant was a contractor. The	19	facts to support the claim that damages are or should
20	statute says nothing in this act shall apply to a	20	be awarded under the reckless damages provision.
21	contractor, subcontractor, or agent of the state agency	21	THE COURT: Did you cite any case that said that
22	or local unit of government when working for that state	22	that is an element that has to be pled in a BIPA claim?
23	agency or local unit of government.	23	MS. KAYS: We cited a number of cases, Your Honor,
24	The only case that decided this issue was the	24	the Rogers vs. CSX. We also cited
	Page 4		Page 6
1	First Circuit Court of Appeals, Enriquez vs. Navy Pier.	1	THE COURT: I'm talking about specifically not
2	And in that decision, they interpret it as we suggest,	2	not what we have to plead to show the heightened damages,
3	that the inquiry is whether the entity was performing	3	the \$5,000. But does there have to be is there any
4	services for the contract.	Ι.	
	services for the contract.	4	case that you've cited that says it is an element of the
5	Nothing in the act says that the plaintiff had	5	case that you've cited that says it is an element of the claim that you have to plead to the claim, the \$1,000 in
5 6		1	
	Nothing in the act says that the plaintiff had	5	claim that you have to plead to the claim, the \$1,000 in
6	Nothing in the act says that the plaintiff had to work for the government contract. Nothing in the act	5 6	claim that you have to plead to the claim, the \$1,000 in damages?
6 7	Nothing in the act says that the plaintiff had to work for the government contract. Nothing in the act even references the individual at all. The exemption is	5 6 7	claim that you have to plead to the claim, the \$1,000 in damages? MS. KAYS: Both cases that we've cited have stated
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Nothing in the act says that the plaintiff had to work for the government contract. Nothing in the act even references the individual at all. The exemption is on behalf of the entity; and, therefore, we're moving to dismiss based on this exemption under BIPA. As we stated in our briefs, Pexco, beginning in 2013, including in 2016, when the plaintiff worked at Pexco and through the present, has been a government contractor. Specifically with respect to the local unit of government, as stated in the in the BIPA exemption, they had a contract with Chicago Surface Mount Flexible Tubular Markets [sic]. We've provided evidence from a declaration on behalf of defendants that shows that contract shows that they were continuing to do work and issued invoices on behalf of that contract throughout, but including, in 2016. And because of that status as a government contractor, they're exempt.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	claim that you have to plead to the claim, the \$1,000 in damages? MS. KAYS: Both cases that we've cited have stated that in order to plead and seek damages for reckless conduct THE COURT: No. Reckless would be the enhanced damages, would be the 5,000. I'm talking about the \$1,000. MS. KAYS: Oh, we have not cited well, I think what we're moving to strike, I believe, is the recklessness portion of the damages. THE COURT: You're not asking to strike the request for a thousand dollars in damages? MS. KAYS: They haven't cited facts to suggest negligence either, and I believe that the case THE COURT: My question is whether there are any cases that say that, in order to seek the thousand-dollar

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Page 7 Page 9 don't have a case offhand that says that negligence has 1 1 accurately," then it makes sense that the private entity 2 been stricken for failure to plead that. It's the 2 would be permitted to, for instance, use biometric time 3 3 heightened recklessness damages. tracking because that's an explicit requirement of the 4 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else? 4 contract. 5 MS. KAYS: No, Your Honor. Thank you. 5 But in contrast to this situation, where --6 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Grant. 6 that's really tangential, right? That's an internal 7 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Your Honor, on this government 7 Pexco policy that they've decided to implement. It's not 8 8 something that the City of Chicago or the federal contractor argument, Pexco raises two government 9 9 contracts, a federal contract as well as a contract with government required as part of their contract. So it's just a difference of opinion of what 10 the City of Chicago. The problem for Pexco is that they 10 11 don't show that they were working for those contractors 11 the "when working for" language itself means, because if 12 when they collected plaintiff's and the proposed class's 12 you take Pexco's argument about "when working for" --13 fingerprints. 13 that merely having a government contract gives a blanket 14 So we completely agree with defendant that the 14 exemption to BIPA, that would mean that any entity with a 15 correct inquiry is whether an entity was working for a 15 government contract would be universally exempt from BIPA 16 16 government contractor. The problem is, Pexco interprets in every circumstance, no matter how attenuated it is, 17 the language "when working for" to simply mean that an 17 from the government contract itself. 18 entity has a government contract. Pexco doesn't provide 18 It makes much more sense to embrace a more 19 19 any evidence that the fingerprinting was related to its narrow reading of "when working for" that means the 2.0 fulfillment of those plastic contracts. They don't argue 2.0 alleged BIPA violations arose out of or related to the 21 that they were required to collect employee fingerprints. 21 contract itself. And that's entirely consistent with 22 22 They don't even argue that they were required to collect federal law on derivative immunity; for instance, in 23 2.3 Campbell-Ewald v. Gomez, which we cite in our brief, employee time pursuant to those contracts. 24 24 which says that the derivative immunity is only limited So what Pexco is effectively asking for is a Page 8 Page 10 1 to when an entity is fulfilling roles and functions 1 mass of expansion of the subcontractor exception. They 2 2 cite to the Enriquez case, which the First District pursuant to that government contract. decided. But Enriquez doesn't have anything to say about 3 So a reading of BIPA "when working for" is 4 this case because in Enriquez, the defendant -- their 4 highly consistent with the derivative immunity that 5 entire existence was premised on fulfilling obligations 5 already exists for federal contractors, and we think 6 6 for a public entity. So everything they did was pursuant that's a much more appropriate understanding of the word. 7 to that government contract, which included direct 7 THE COURT: Just so I understand this argument, so 8 delegation to do things like track employee time, you 8 you -- the statute says the exemption says that an entity 9 9 know, set working hours, and set employee policies. is exempt under Section 25(e) if its contractor, unit --10 Here, Pexco hasn't provided similar evidence 10 a unit of government and was working for that unit of 11 that it was -- delegated that authority or even told that 11 government at the time it collected or disseminated 12 12 it needed to collect employee time. The one piece of biometric information. So is your argument that -- that 13 evidence they do cite --13 at the time is not just related to -- that there needs to 14 THE COURT: Would it make a difference if they were 14 be a showing other than that there was a contract in 15 required to or not if they were, in fact, doing it? 15 place? What more are you looking for? 16 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Your Honor, I believe so because 16 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Yes, Your Honor. And I think 17 in that case, then, it would be an explicit requirement 17 maybe a hypothetical would help here. 18 18 of the government contract. So, for example, law enforcement agencies 19 19 The whole point of the government contractor frequently use private fingerprinting companies to 20 2.0 exception is, presumably, that the legislature didn't perform fingerprinting for them. In that case, that 21 21 would be clearly when working for the government agency. want to interfere with contracts between government 22 entities and private parties. So in the case where the 22 So if the private fingerprinting company, for instance, 23 government contract explicitly says, "You need to track 23 collected biometric fingerprints as part of that, we employee time; you need to, for instance, track it 24 would say they were exempt from BIPA because it was part

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of their government contract. They were clearly working for the government when they collected that biometric data.

2.1

In contrast, this is super dissimilar from that. You know, Pexco was not in any way collecting fingerprint data in order to produce plastic parts for the City of Chicago. So I think there are pretty clear instances; for instance, Navy Pier, when they delegate all decision-making authority, all employee timekeeping authority to the private entity itself.

So, yes, our view is that the "when working for" exemption needs to be related to the government contract. It's not satisfied by merely having a government contract.

THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Your Honor, I want to briefly touch on -- before I move on from the government contract argument, in defendant's response to plaintiff's sur-reply, they raise this Prevailing Wage Act argument, where they say that the Prevailing Wage Act required them to report wage and hour time tracking to the City of Chicago. But the portion of the contract that they cite

says the Prevailing Wage Act only applies to contractors

who are performing public work construction within the

that the entity negligently or recklessly violated the act, but it is not, at the pleading stage, a substantive pleading requirement.

And as Your Honor pointed out, Pexco doesn't cite to cases that say that that pleading requirement is necessary at the pleading stage.

But further on, Pexco's argument that there's some sort of standard of care for BIPA, much of Pexco's argument is that there must be a reasonableness standard, and they essentially impose the common law negligence standard on BIPA. But a statute fixes its own standard of care, whereas here, it defines what a violation looks like and what a violation of the act constitutes.

BIPA simply does not incorporate a common law negligence standard because BIPA itself fixes the standard of care that entities need to follow. So to the extent that Pexco has any argument that it acted reasonably or that it used reasonable care, that's simply not relevant to evaluating whether an entity violated BIPA. It might be relevant in determining damages at a later stage, but at this stage, it has simply no relevance to the question.

And that's all, Your Honor. THE COURT: Any rebuttal?

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meaning of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act.

And, Your Honor, creating plastic tubes for the City of Chicago, Pexco makes no argument that that's a public work or that's construction for the City of Chicago. They don't make any argument that the Prevailing Wage Act actually applied in this case. They don't make any argument that the contract actually required them to collect wage and timekeeping for the City of Chicago. This is just not a case where there's any contractual obligation on Pexco to perform time tracking for either the federal or the local unit of

But on to Pexco's argument that there is some pleading standard that we have to meet regarding liquidated damages, Your Honor, almost every Court who has considered this have said that is not a substantive pleading requirement.

When the Supreme Court decided Rosenbach, the Supreme Court said that the only allegation that a plaintiff needs to prove is a violation of the act to show entitlement to seek liquidated damages. So Rosenbach simply says, If you can establish that an entity violated the act, then you are entitled to

liquidated damages, should you be able to prove later on

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MS. KAYS: Yes, Your Honor.

So in plaintiff's opposition argument, she said that if we were required to track time under our agreement, then this exemption would apply. Not only does the provision about the prevailing wage rates say very roundly that the contractor is supposed to comply with all requirements of the act, that it's supposed to pay laborers, workers, and mechanics and all wages, the prevailing rate of wages, it also says that it's supposed to comply broadly, if you look at Section 3.3 and then 3.3.1, with all ordinances, laws, rules, regulations, whether they are asserted in the contract and whether or not they appear in that.

It specifically says in this contract that we are required to track the hours of the workers. And given plaintiff's admission that if that were the case, then this would fall under their exemption, I think that, you know, their argument fails.

On top of it, they are presuming legislative intents --

THE COURT: It doesn't say that you have to track them using a biometric system, right?

MS. KAYS: No, but how it's being tracked -- and I think the plaintiff did not distinguish that it had to

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Page 15 Page 17 1 1 MS. KAYS: Correct. And -say that it was being tracked via a biometric system. 2 And the Court even asked if we were required to track 2 THE COURT: Okay. That is Exhibit what? 3 3 time under this agreement, would the exemption apply? MS. KAYS: That is Exhibit 1. No. Sorry. Excuse 4 And it specifically does talk about tracking 4 me. So it's Exhibit A. And Exhibit A also has an 5 the agreement. But, regardless, none of that is in the 5 Exhibit 1 and 2 attached to it. Actually, excuse me. 6 language of the statute. There's no -- plaintiff cited 6 7 to no legislative intent. That's purely their argument. 7 And just to clarify, Your Honor, during the 8 8 course of -- after filing our motion, we attached this And they can't cite, you know, that there's 9 9 declaration to our reply because we had discovered any implication that a government contractor needs to 10 10 information from our clients. We asked to refile the prove things in order to be deemed a government 11 contractor under this exception. The language is very 11 motion before plaintiff opposed it. They declined and 12 simple, and it simply says that -- excuse me. It simply 12 said that they were okay with us raising this in our 13 13 says that it applies to an entity that is a contractor, reply, which is --14 subcontractor, or agent of the state or local unit of 14 THE COURT: Then we had the sur-reply? 15 government, and it says when working for that state or 15 MS. KAYS: Correct, yes. 16 local unit of government. 16 THE COURT: Okay. 17 17 The appellate court has spoken that the MS. KAYS: So that contract has continued as of the 18 inquiry is whether they're performing services. There's, 18 dates of the declaration, which -- excuse me -- it was 19 19 right before we filed this, so April 2023. The contract again, nothing that says that we have to jump through 20 hoops and say that this certain employee was working on 20 was still in effect. There was also --21 the contract, that we were -- you know, their analogy 21 THE COURT: But the allegation is that the plaintiff 22 22 about a fingerprinter working for a unit of government is left in 2016? 23 23 MS. KAYS: She worked there in -- I believe she -no different than any other contractor that performs 24 24 services for a government. in 2016, correct. So this government contract that we Page 16 Page 18 1 1 Those are not -- that's not working for. are referring to was in place when she was employed. 2 2 THE COURT: All right. And what is the -- we don't That's simply a service agreement the way they describe 3 3 it. And, again, there's nothing in here that says that have a -- we don't have any class certified yet, but what 4 there are all these additional requirements to exempt an 4 was the proposed class definition? 5 entity under BIPA. 5 Ms. Seaman-Grant, people who worked at 6 THE COURT: So summarize for me in terms of the time 6 defendants through what? 7 requirement that you say is the requirement that applies 7 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: In 2016. 8 here that was working for that unit of government. The 8 THE COURT: 2016? 9 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Yes. allegation is that this plaintiff worked for Pexco during 9 10 what period, and your affidavit or other proof says that 10 THE COURT: And that was the cutoff? 11 11 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Yes. I'm just confirming, but -they were a government subcontractor during what period? 12 12 MS. KAYS: The lawsuit was filed April 30th, 2021. What are the dates we're talking about? 13 THE COURT: All right. I guess it doesn't have --13 MS. KAYS: Yes. So the government contract that 14 we've cited to, that began in 2013. 14 it doesn't have a time built into the damages, it looks 15 15 THE COURT: When you say "government contract," like, in the complaint. 16 which one? Federal or the City? 16 Okay. All right. Anything else in rebuttal? 17 MS. KAYS: I'm talking about the City right now. 17 MS. KAYS: No. I mean, one thing, again, that we 18 raise in our briefs is that if we had to prove that a 18 THE COURT: Okay. 19 19 MS. KAYS: So Pexco contracted with Chicago Surface certain plaintiff was specifically performing work for a 2.0 20 Mount Flexible Tubular Markets that began in 2013. It specific contract, which, again, we argue there's nothing 21 continued. It was still in effect in 2016 per the 21 in legislative intents that -- and there's nothing that 22 declaration. And it's --22 plaintiff can cite to other than their own inferences, 23 THE COURT: For the record, the declaration was 23 and there's nothing in the language that says that. But attached to the reply? 24 if we did, then we would have to treat this employee

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Page 19 Page 21 1 1 differently any day that they worked on a different defendant. It does not mean while defendant is actively 2 2 working on fulfilling the government contract or while 3 And so it's just -- it's not feasible. It's 3 plaintiff is working on that contract. It's a temporal 4 not something that is indicated anywhere within the 4 question. The question is, was plaintiff working for 5 statute or legislature that this is how this entity that 5 defendant during the same time that defendant had a 6 6 is a government contractor should be treated. It's a government contract and was a government contractor or 7 broad exemption, and we ask that the Court find that the 7 subcontractor? 8 8 plaintiff -- or that the defendant, my client, is exempt And here, I find that defendant has proven, 9 9 with an uncontested affidavit, which was attached to the 10 10 reply, that defendant did have a government subcontract And then with respect to the recklessness, 11 again, there's no indication here that plaintiff has done 11 with the company that was a contractor for the City of anything other than -- the plaintiff -- excuse me. 12 12 Chicago during the time that plaintiff worked for 13 There's nothing in the complaint that asserts 13 defendant. any facts to support a reckless damage. Rosenbach 14 14 So I am going to grant the motion to dismiss 15 15 doesn't address the recklessness pleading standard. under Section 2-619. And it does not appear to me that 16 16 Instead, it says there does not need to be damages or there is a way that that can be cured, and so it's going 17 injury to a plaintiff. But that has nothing to do with 17 to be with prejudice, and we don't need to reach the 18 whether they can assert recklessness without supporting 18 2-615 arguments. 19 19 any -- in providing any facts to support that claim and So what I would like the movant to do, the 20 20 just by simply parroting the statute alone. counsel for defendant, is to -- is to draft a simple 21 THE COURT: Okay. I am going to give you an oral 21 order that says, "For the reasons explained on the 22 22 ruling. I'm going to take a recess. You've got a court record, the Court grants the motion to dismiss under 23 23 reporter here. Why don't you come back in about Section 2-619" and attach a copy of the -- not attach it, 24 15 minutes. Okay? You can stay in the meeting. Just 24 but file a copy of the transcript sometime, let's say, in Page 22 Page 20 stop your video, mute yourself; and I'll come back and 1 1 the next week. 2 2 give you a ruling on it. Okay? Okay? 3 MS. KAYS: Thank you, Your Honor. 3 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: Thank you. Court is in recess. 4 4 THE COURT: Okay. So that will be -- I also want 5 the order to indicate that that's a final order disposing 5 (A short break was had.) THE COURT: Thank you for your arguments. 6 6 of all matters. 7 First of all, I will talk about the 2-619 7 MS. KAYS: Your Honor, should we write in there that 8 argument. This is defendant's argument under 8 it grants the motion with prejudice? 9 9 Section 2-619(a)(9), which says that there's other THE COURT: Yes. 10 affirmative matter that defeats the claim. Defendant has 10 MS. KAYS: Thank you, Your Honor. 11 the burden to plead and prove on the 2-619 that there is 11 THE COURT: Okay. Good. And so we'll look for that 12 this affirmative matter and that because of the 12 order, if not later this afternoon -- it shouldn't be 13 affirmative matter, plaintiff cannot prevail even if the 13 that difficult -- but by tomorrow morning, the latest, 14 allegations of the complaint are all true. 14 okay, after you run that past plaintiff's counsel. 15 15 So defendant argued that it is exempt from MS. KAYS: Thank you, Your Honor. 16 BIPA under Section 25(e) of BIPA, which provides that 16 THE COURT: Thank you. Court is in recess. 17 nothing in this act shall be construed by/to a 17 MS. SEAMAN-GRANT: Thanks, Your Honor. 18 contractor, subcontractor, or agent of a state agency or 18 (Whereupon, the hearing concluded at 19 unit of local government, whether working for that state 19 3:02 p.m.) 2.0 agent or unit of local government. 2.0 (Which were all the proceedings had 21 21 in the above-entitled cause on this So the key issue here is the phrase "when 22 working for." What does "when working for" mean? And my 2.2 date.) 23 finding is that that means that it is during the same 23 period of time that plaintiff was working for the 24

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1	STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS.
3	COUNTY OF COOK)
4	
5	Tina M. Hickey, being first duly sworn, on oath
6	says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter
7	doing business in the City of Chicago, County of Cook and
8	the State of Illinois;
9	That she reported in shorthand the proceedings
10	had at the foregoing hearing via videoconference;
11	And that the foregoing is a true and correct
12	transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid
13	and contains all the proceedings had at the said hearing.
14	Witness my official signature as a Certified
15	Shorthand Reporter in the State of Illinois on
16	September 11th, 2023.
17	To the state of th
18	TINA M. HICKEY, CSR
19	161 North Clark Street Suite 3050
20	Chicago, Illinois 60601 Phone: 312.361.8851
21	F11011E. 312.301.0031
22	
23	CSR No. 084-003858
24	CSI NO. 004 003030

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